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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1999 No. 3108**

**The Social Security (Claims and Information) Regulations 1999**

**Additional functions of local authorities**

4.—(1) A local authority to whom Part I of Schedule I to these Regulations applies may conduct a work-focused interview with, or provide assistance to, a person to whom paragraphs (2) and (3) apply, where the interview or assistance is requested or consented to by that person.

(2) This paragraph applies to a person who resides in a postcode district identified in Part I of Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

(3) This paragraph applies to any person making a claim for, or entitled to, any benefit specified in paragraph (4) and applies whether or not a person has had an interview in accordance with regulations made under section 2A of the Administration Act(1).

(4) The benefits specified in this paragraph are—

- (a) income support;
- (b) housing benefit;
- (c) council tax benefit;
- (d) widow's benefit;
- (e) bereavement benefits;
- (f) incapacity benefit;
- (g) severe disablement allowance;
- (h) invalid care allowance;
- (i) a jobseeker's allowance;
- (j) disability living allowance.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the request or consent may be made or given to —

- (a) the local authority conducting the interview or giving the assistance;
- (b) any person who, or authority which, may be specified as a designated authority for the purposes of section 2A(8) of the Administration Act; or
- (c) a person designated an employment officer for the purposes of section 9 of the Jobseekers Act 1995(2).

(6) For the purposes of carrying out functions under paragraph (1), a local authority may in particular—

- (a) obtain and receive information or evidence for the purpose of any work-focused interview to be conducted with that person;
- (b) arrange for the work-focused interview to be conducted by one of the following —
  - (i) the Secretary of State;
  - (ii) a person providing services to the Secretary of State; or

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(1) Section 2A was inserted by section 57 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999.

(2) 1995 c. 18.

- (iii) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any function of, the local authority;
- (c) forward information supplied for the purpose of a work-focused interview to any person or authority conducting that interview;
- (d) take steps to identify potential employment or training opportunities for persons taking part in work-focused interviews;
- (e) conduct a work-focused interview;
- (f) take steps to identify—
  - (i) obstacles which may hinder a person in taking up employment or training opportunities;
  - (ii) educational opportunities which may assist in reducing or removing such obstacles;and
- (g) record information supplied at a work-focused interview.